

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Notice to applicants and recipients with disabilities

WHO IS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY?

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) a person with a disability is defined as an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include but are not limited to functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working. If you have a physical or mental condition that makes it harder for you to do the things we require you to do, we may be able to give you some help. If you need help, tell us and we will work with you to decide what you need.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE CAN HELP:

DSS can give you a “reasonable accommodation” to make it easier for you to access our programs.

- We can call or visit if you cannot come to the office.
- We can tell you what the letters that we send to you mean.
- If you take care of a family member with a disability and that keeps you from doing what we ask, we can adjust what we ask you to do.
- The agency will take reasonable steps to make sure that you receive all the benefits available to you.

HOW YOU CAN GET HELP

If you need help ask your worker, or you can ask the Affirmative Action Division. (860)424-5040 or (800)842-1508. TDD/TTY: is (800)842-4524.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T GET THE HELP YOU THINK YOU NEED?

If you feel that your benefits or services were denied or changed because of your disability, or if you asked us for help and you feel that we did not give you what you need, you may appeal that decision. We can help you with your appeal. Call your worker or the Affirmative Action Division at (860)424-5040 or toll free (800)842-1508. TDD/TTY: is (800)842-4524, or you can ask your worker how to request a fair hearing to review any denial or reduction in services.

The Affirmative Action Division will review and respond to all requests for help from clients with disabilities. During this process we may contact your caseworker or medical provider.

The Department of Social Services wants you to know that it's illegal to discriminate against a person because he or she has a disability.

In fact, federal and state laws protect you. Two federal laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Connecticut state laws protect persons with disabilities.

These laws say that persons with disabilities must be given equal access to DSS services. DSS cannot discriminate against you because you have a disability.

This pamphlet will explain what a reasonable accommodation is (how we can help you) and how these laws may help you if you are a person with a disability.

The Department of Social Services' programs are available to all applicants without regard to race, sex, age, religious creed, ancestry, color, national origin, criminal record, marital status, genetic information, past or present mental disability, intellectual disability or handicap, learning disability, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression. The Department has a TDD/TTY line for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired: (800)842-4524. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

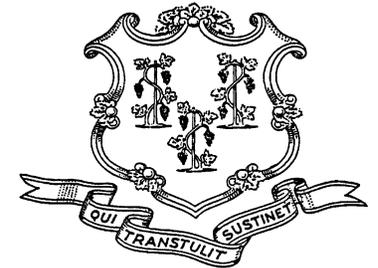
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